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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
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THE WIDER MEANING OF NATIONAL SECURITY

I am glad to be here with you, and to share some thoughts about a fundamental concern: the relationship of American national security to global change. The Secretary of State is addressing himself much more fully to this general theme in an important address tonight.

Since this Administration has been in office now for a little more than two years, it is an appropriate moment to assess what we have accomplished in the area of foreign affairs and national security. How have we responded to the challenge of change? What are the problems we ought to be thinking about -- not only in the next two years, but the next two decades?

On the whole, the basic foreign policy and national security concerns of this country do not change from administration to administration. But the constancy of our goals must not blind us to the need for flexibility and imagination in addressing new problems.

Social and political change today is both more intensive and more extensive than at any point in history. It defies easy definition. But for our purposes today, the changes sweeping our world can be reduced to two basic essentials:

- The world is experiencing a global political awakening without precedent in history.
- At the same time, the world is undergoing a significant redistribution of economic and political power.

The political awakening is the result of many forces. The most important of these are the cumulative impacts of literacy and modern communications. These forces -- to which our efforts have been directed --